



AUG • 61
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MARVEL
SPIDER-MAN
GROUP


MAXIMUM CLONAGE

PART 4 OF 6



SPIDER-MAN

A
THOUSAND
CLONES!



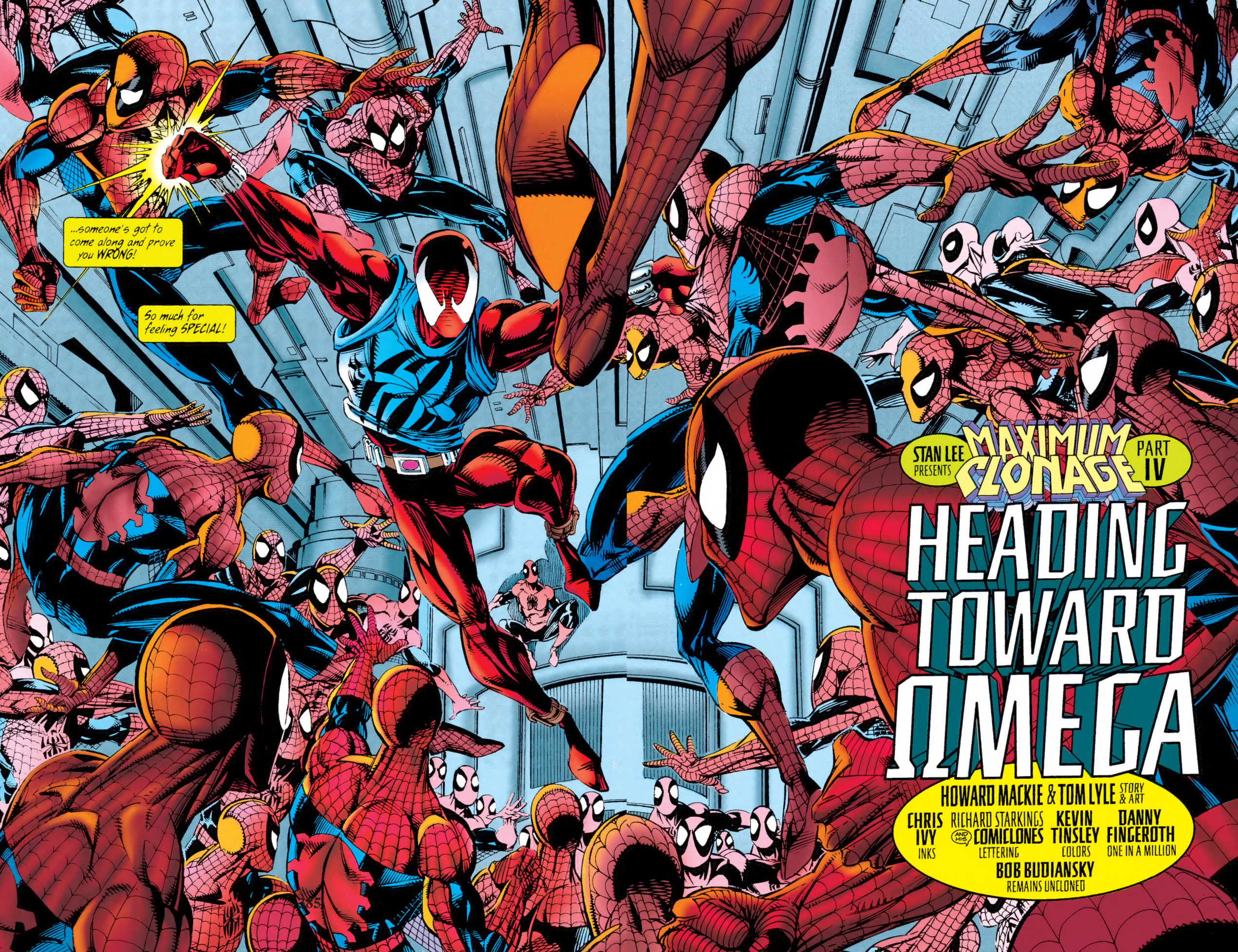
You wake up in the morning and think...

... "Things could be worse! I've got my life back, I know I'm not a CLONE anymore... things could definitely be worse!"

You go through the day expecting it to be better than every one of the other mornings over the past five years.

No more doubts... no self-loathing... life is GOOD!

And then, just when you're starting to feel UNIQUE... DIFFERENT... ONE OF A KIND...

A chaotic scene in a city with many Spider-Man clones. One clone in the center wears a blue and red suit with a white spider emblem. Another clone in the top left is firing a yellow energy blast. The clones are in various poses, some looking towards the center, others looking away. The background shows city buildings.

...someone's got to
come along and prove
you **WRONG!**

So much for
feeling **SPECIAL!**

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

**MAXIMUM
CLONAGE**

PART IV

HEADING TOWARD OMEGA

HOWARD MACKIE & TOM LYLE STORY
& ART

CHRIS RICHARD STARKINGS KEVIN DANNY
IVY AND HIS COMICLONES TINSLEY FINGEROTH
INKS LETTERING COLORS ONE IN A MILLION
BOB BUDIANSKY
REMAINS UNCLONED

I've got to get away...
got to **RUN AWAY!**

Even under the **BEST** of
circumstances I wouldn't
be able to take on a
hundred clones of myself.

And right now I've got
enough of the drugs the
JACKAL sent coursing
through my system...

...so that I don't feel
like **STANDING**, much less
FIGHTING guys who are
as strong as I am.

Running away, clearing my head,
finding my clone...**SPIDER-MAN**...
the man who has been Peter
Parker for the past five years...
and pounding some sense into
his head seems like the safest bet.

I can't believe he's
gone over to the
Jackal's side...*

...can't believe he's willing to simply walk
away from the **LIFE** he's built for himself --
on the word of a **MADMAN!**

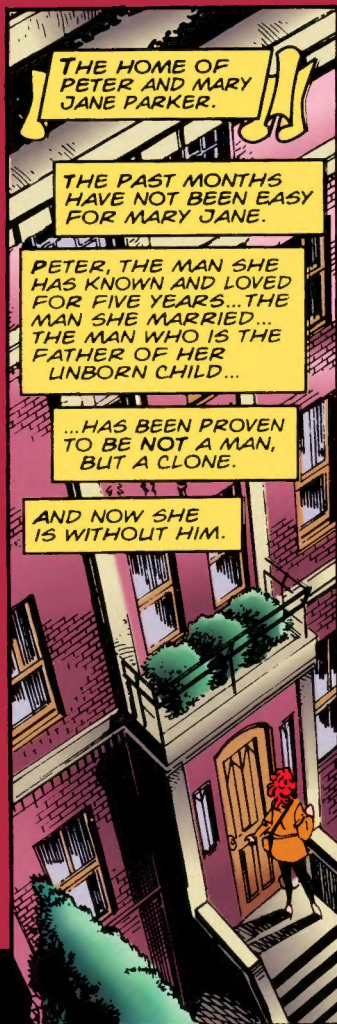
* See **AMAZING SPIDER**
#404 -- Departing D!

I wouldn't...

I DID.

I've got to **FIND** him!
I can't let him make the
same mistake I did!

I WON'T!



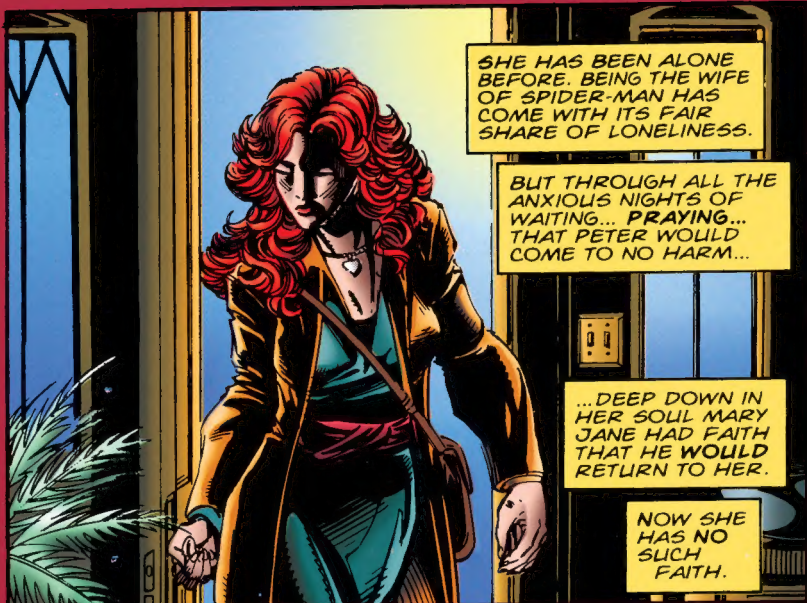
THE HOME OF
PETER AND MARY
JANE PARKER.

THE PAST MONTHS
HAVE NOT BEEN EASY
FOR MARY JANE.

PETER, THE MAN SHE
HAS KNOWN AND LOVED
FOR FIVE YEARS...THE
MAN SHE MARRIED...
THE MAN WHO IS THE
FATHER OF HER
UNBORN CHILD...

...HAS BEEN PROVEN
TO BE NOT A MAN,
BUT A CLONE.

AND NOW SHE
IS WITHOUT HIM.

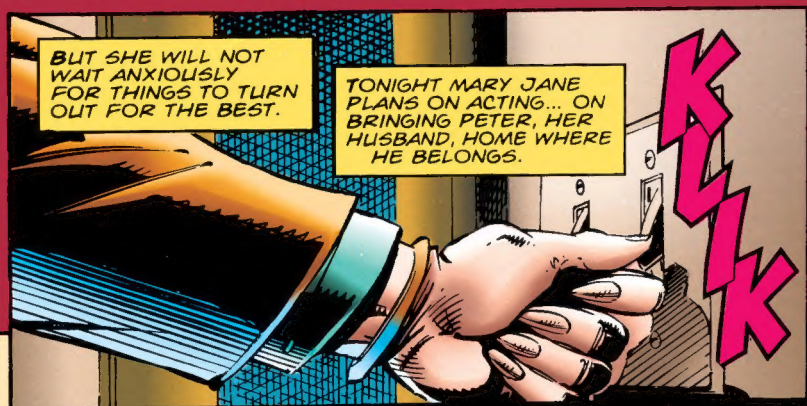


SHE HAS BEEN ALONE
BEFORE. BEING THE WIFE
OF SPIDER-MAN HAS
COME WITH ITS FAIR
SHARE OF LONELINESS.

BUT THROUGH ALL THE
ANXIOUS NIGHTS OF
WAITING... PRAYING...
THAT PETER WOULD
COME TO NO HARM...

...DEEP DOWN IN
HER SOUL MARY
JANE HAD FAITH
THAT HE WOULD
RETURN TO HER.

NOW SHE
HAS NO
SUCH
FAITH.

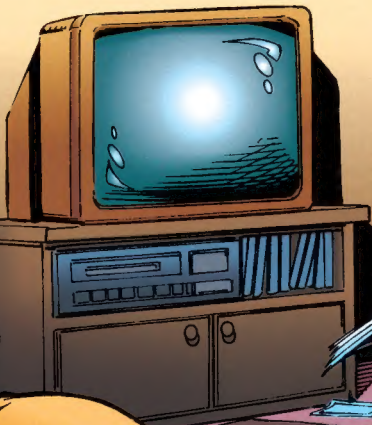


BUT SHE WILL NOT
WAIT ANXIOUSLY
FOR THINGS TO TURN
OUT FOR THE BEST.

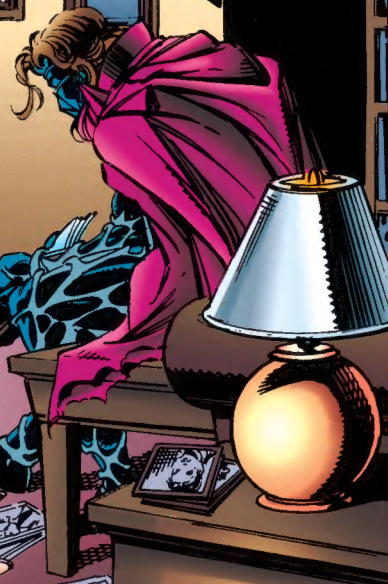
TONIGHT MARY JANE
PLANS ON ACTING... ON
BRINGING PETER, HER
HUSBAND, HOME WHERE
HE BELONGS.

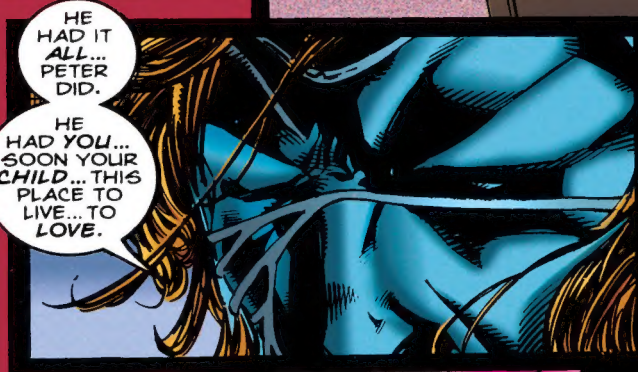


KAINE!



WHY?
WHY DID
HE DO
IT?





ELSEWHERE...

HOW
YOU FEELING,
PETER, MY
BOY?

GOOD?

NO...
YOU'RE NOT.
I CAN TELL
JUST BY
LOOKING AT
YOU.

I
KNOW THIS
IS PAINFUL,
PETER... THE
TRUTH
ALWAYS
IS!

BUT
YOU'RE A
PART OF A
FAMILY NOW,
PETER... OUR
FAMILY!

GIVE IT
A LITTLE TIME
AND YOU'LL
FORGET ALL
ABOUT YOUR
FORMER
LIFE.

AND
NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS
IN THE
FUTURE...

...YOU'LL
ALWAYS
HAVE ME,
SON!

I CAN SEE YOU'RE
HAVING TROUBLE
FOCUSING, BOY...
AND THAT'S
UNDER-
STANDABLE.

BUT WHAT WE'VE
GOT TO DO IS FIND
YOU SOMETHING
TO DO...

...SOMETHING
TO TAKE YOUR MIND
OFF OF THINGS...
SOMETHING TO PUT A
SMILE BACK ON YOUR FACE.

IT'S
GWEN... GWEN
STACY. I NEED
YOU TO BRING
HER TO ME.





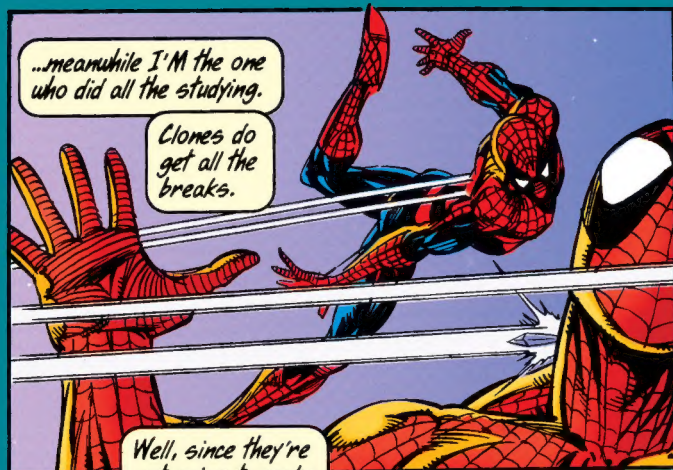
MEANWHILE...

Here they come.

Only four of them...here.

Since our spider-senses cancel out each other's, they're spreading out and doing a methodical search.

Just my luck
THEY inherited
MY brains...



...meanwhile I'M the one who did all the studying.

Clones do get all the breaks.

Well, since they're not going to make it easy on me--



Only one thing to do...

Web 'em up...

...and take 'em down.

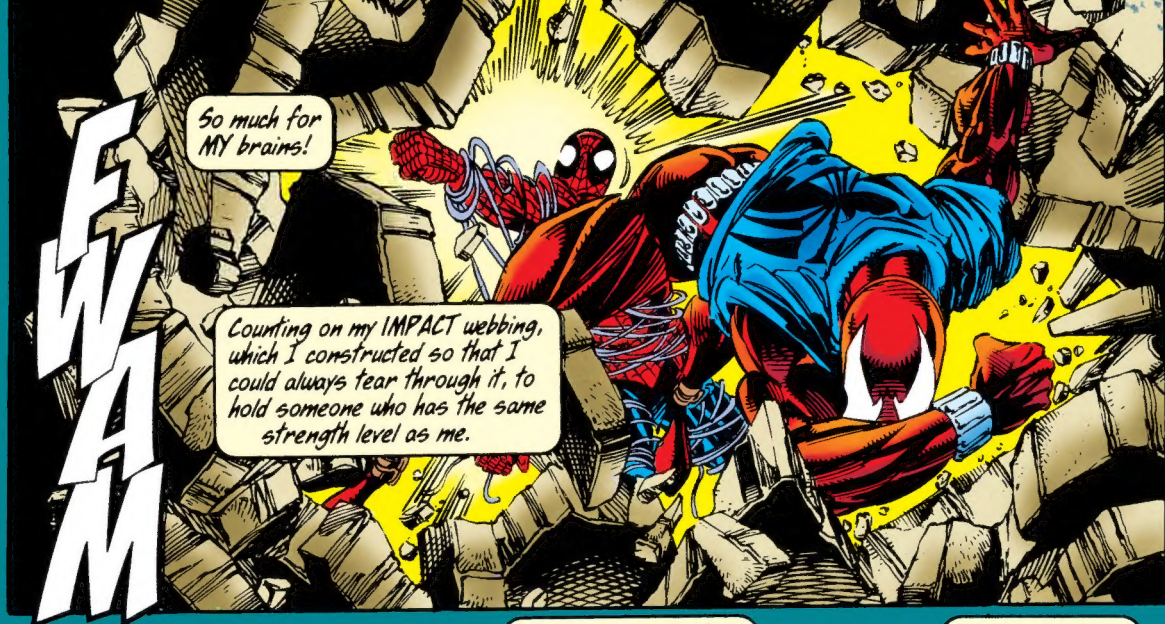


And show them that there's a lot more to being Spider-Man --



-- than a costume and a fortunate inheritance of genetic material.

OH, BOY!



So much for
MY brains!

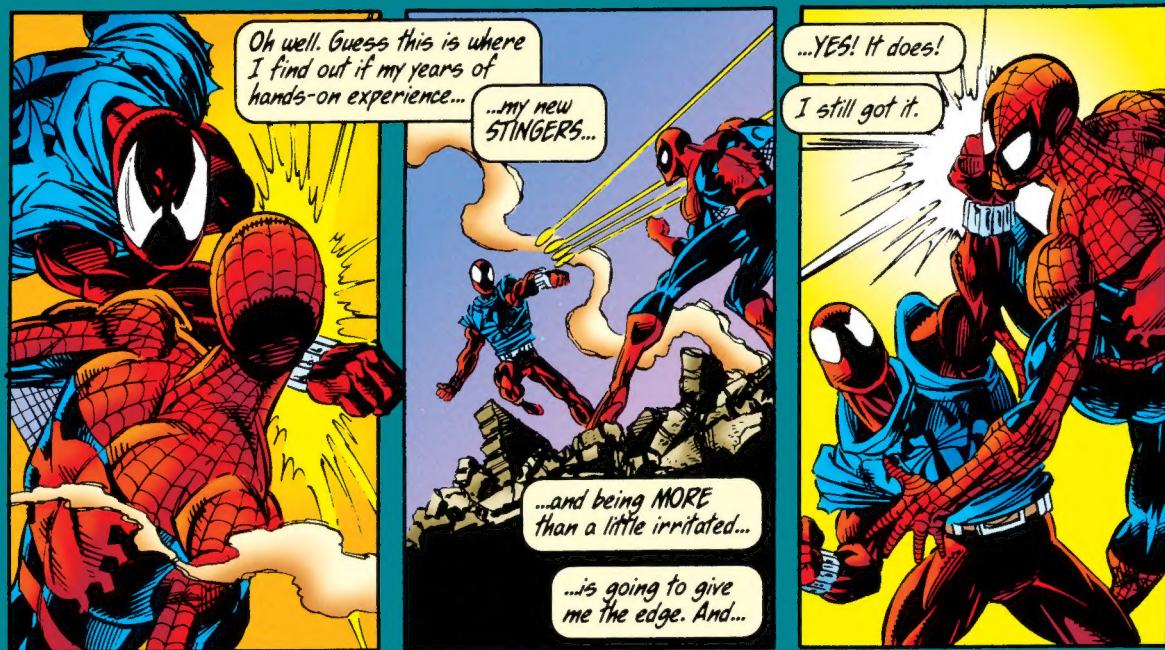
Counting on my IMPACT webbing,
which I constructed so that I
could always tear through it, to
hold someone who has the same
strength level as me.



Duh! And now the fight
continues OUTSIDE!

Which is EXACTLY
where I wanted
to be!

Though I might
have opted for
the DOOR!



Oh well. Guess this is where
I find out if my years of
hands-on experience...

...my new
STINGERS...

...YES! It does!
I still got it.

...and being MORE
than a little irritated...

...is going to give
me the edge. And...

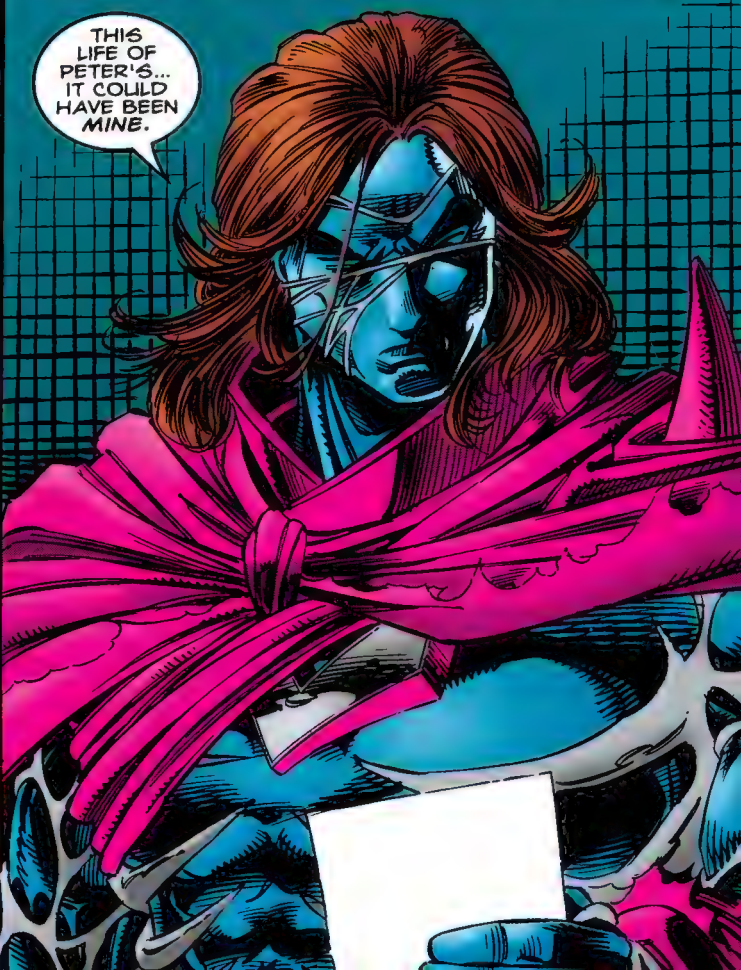
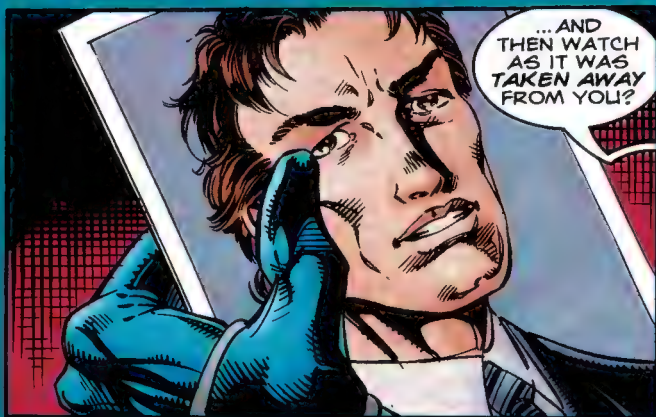
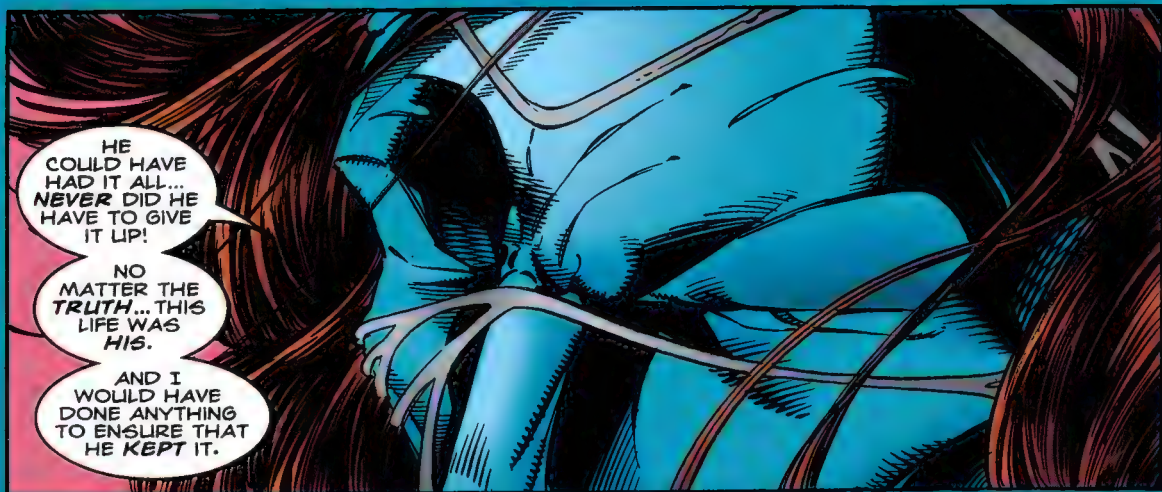


I...

I...

...OMIGOD...

HERE?
JACKAL'S
LAB IS
HERE?!



I WAS THE FIRST OF PROFESSOR MILES WARREN'S CLONES...

...AND I WAS TO BE THE BEST.

ON THE DAY I EMERGED FROM HIS CLONING TANK WARREN GREETED ME LIKE A NEW-BORN SON.

HE WAS PROUD OF WHAT HE HAD CREATED...

...HE WAS PROUD OF ME!

THE MONTHS OF TRAINING... THE LEARNING TO BECOME PETER... TO BECOME SPIDER-MAN... WERE THE ONLY HAPPY MOMENTS OF MY LIFE...

...AND WERE TO BE SHORT-LIVED.

THE FIRST TIME ONE OF MY PRECOGNITIVE FLASHES TORE THROUGH MY HEAD, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT WAS... OR WHAT IT FORETOLD.

AND THEN I SAW IT... THE FIRST SIGN OF MY CELLULAR DEGENERATION.

IT WAS A SCAR... SO SMALL... AND YET ENOUGH TO SET ME APART FROM PETER AND ENOUGH FOR...

...FOR WARREN... WHO HAD BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO ME... TO CAST ME ASIDE.

TO HIM, I WAS NOW NOTHING MORE THAN A FAILED EXPERIMENT.

ONE WHICH MUST BE DESTROYED.

IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT I CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE PRECOGNITIVE FLASH FOR WHAT IT WAS.

THE DEGENERATION DESTROYED MY LIFE AND...

...SAVED ME FROM DEATH.

I RAN.

BUT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO FAR. WARREN... HIS LAB... IT WAS THE ONLY LIFE I KNEW.

I WATCHED FROM THE SHADOWS THE DAY PETER EMERGED FROM THE TANKS.

I WATCHED AS HE BECAME THE FAVORED SON.

I WATCHED AS HE BECAME SPIDER-MAN.

I TRIED TO HATE PETER... IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EASY... BUT INSTEAD, IN HIM I BEGAN TO SEE A BROTHER.

A BROTHER WHO COULD LIVE THE FULL AND RICH LIFE THAT WAS TO BE DENIED ME FOREVER.



PETER GOT IT ALL... ALL THAT I COULD NEVER HAVE... BUT IT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME... ENOUGH TO HAVE BEN SUFFER.

I HOUNDED BEN THROUGH THE YEARS... DISRUPTED HIS LIFE... KEPT HIM OFF BALANCE AND ALWAYS AWAY FROM THIS CITY... AWAY FROM PETER.

AND MY LOVE FOR PETER GREW AS, EVERY DAY, HE PROVED HIMSELF THE HERO I COULD NEVER BE...

... SUCCEEDING WHERE I COULD NOT... HIS LIFE... THIS HOME... WAS ALL A SYMBOL FOR ME.



AND NOW HE'S THROWING IT ALL AWAY!

WHY?!

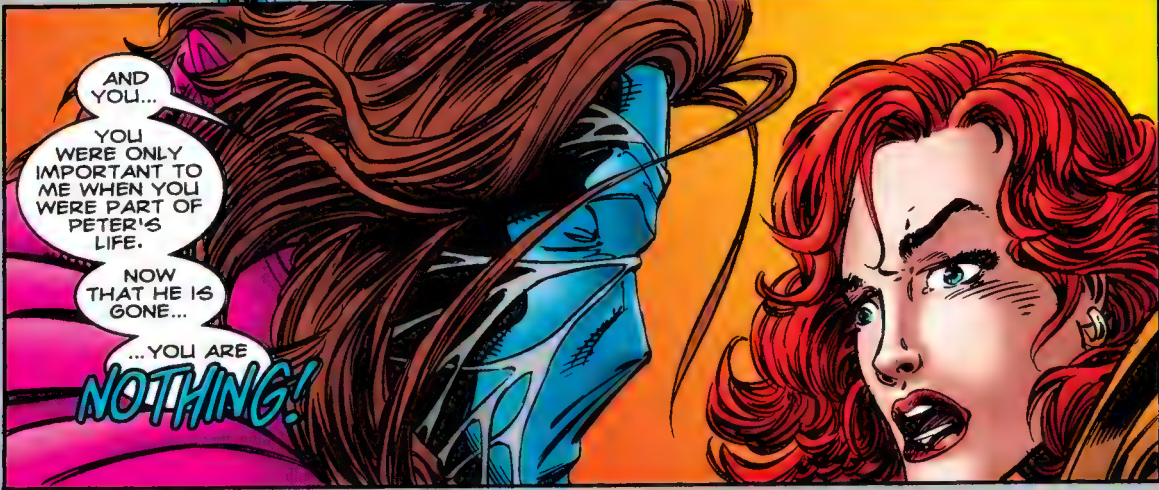


I'VE SEEN HIM... HE'S WORKING WITH THE JACKAL... WITH WARREN!

AND BEN, PLAYING THE FOOLHARDY HERO, TRIED TO STOP HIM!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WILL GET HIM?

THE DEATH HE HAS ALWAYS DESERVED! KILLED AT THE HANDS OF HIS OWN CLONES.



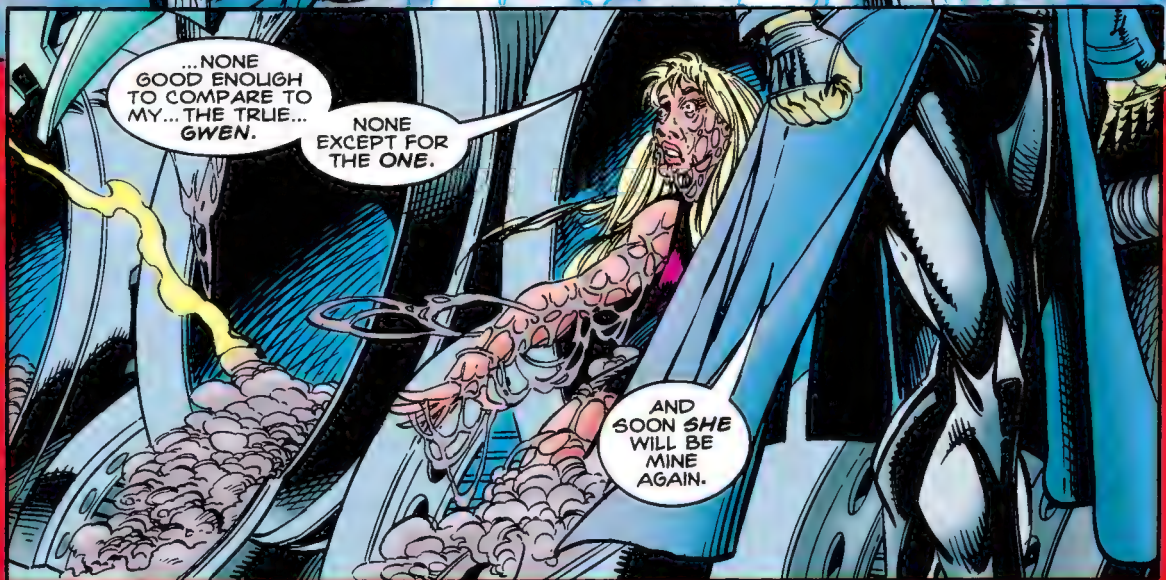
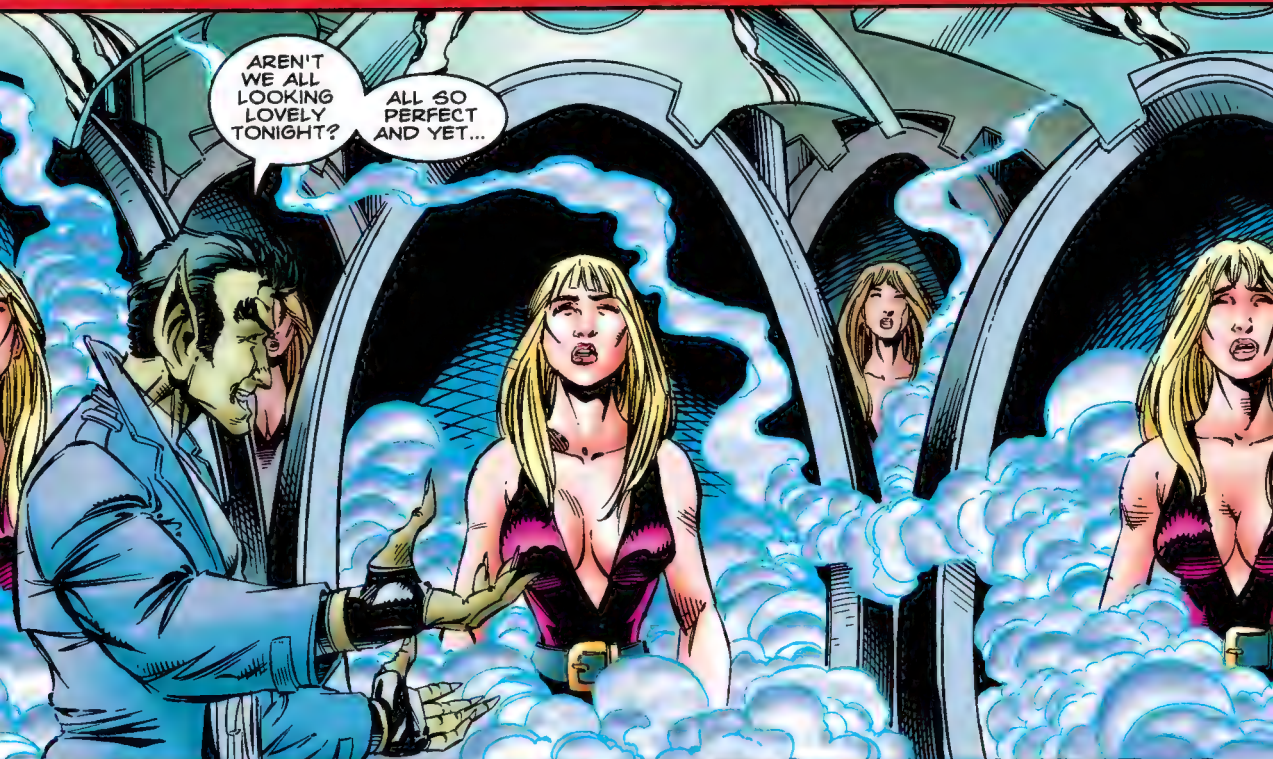
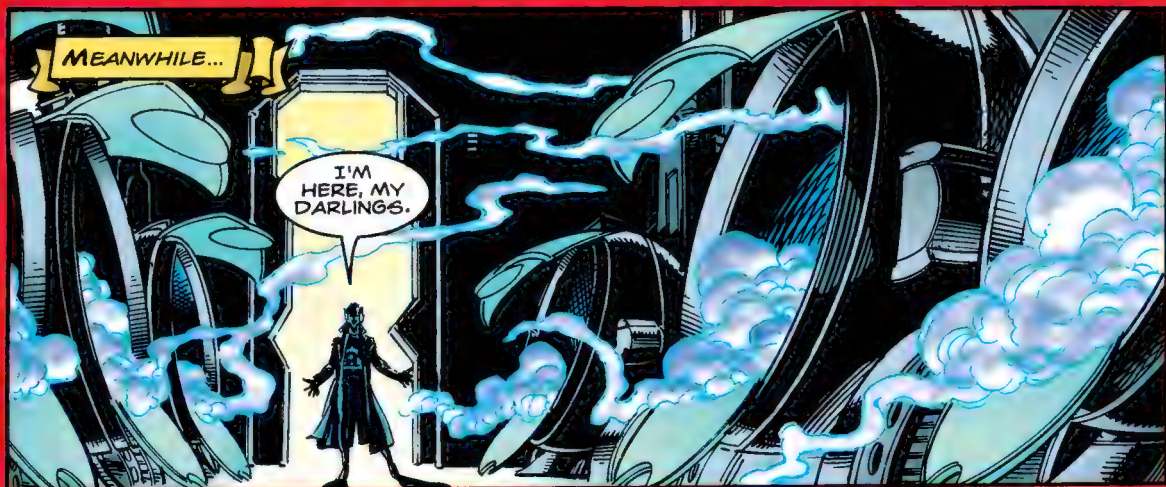
AND YOU...

YOU WERE ONLY IMPORTANT TO ME WHEN YOU WERE PART OF PETER'S LIFE.

NOW THAT HE IS GONE...

... YOU ARE

NOTHING!

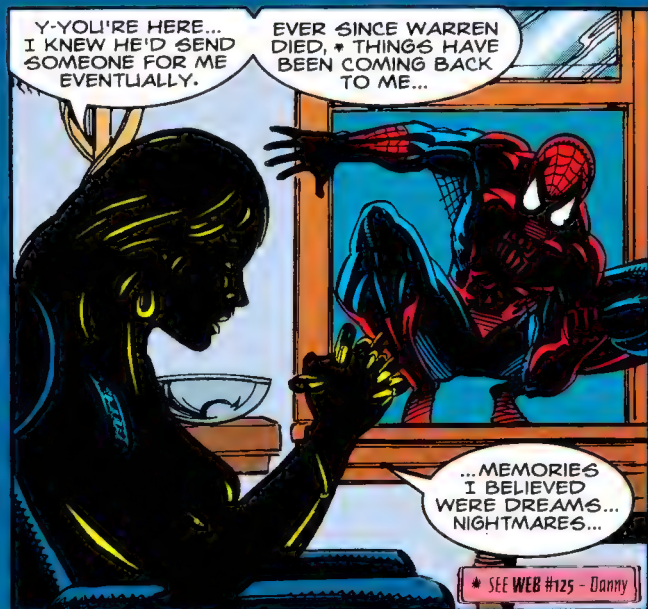




WHY AM I DOING THIS?



BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING ELSE!



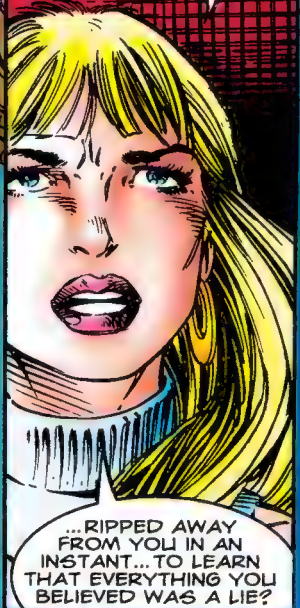


PLEASE...
DON'T... IT'S
HARD ENOUGH FOR
ME TO LOOK AT YOU
WITH THE MASK ON.
I DON'T THINK I
COULD BEAR TO...
TO...

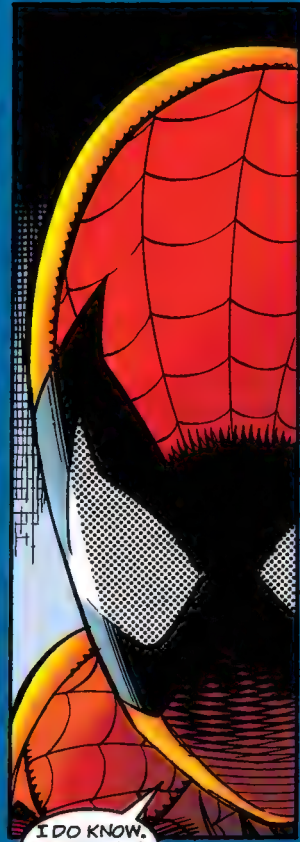
I
UNDERSTAND.

DO YOU? I
DON'T THINK
SO.

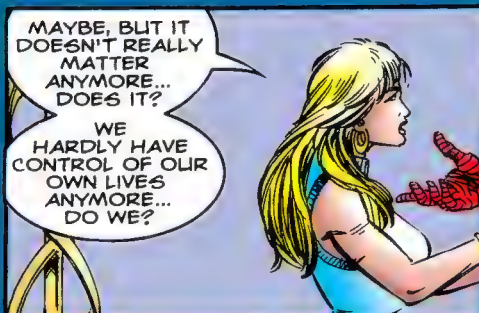
HOW
COULD YOU KNOW
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO
HAVE A FAMILY...A
LIFE...A LIFETIME OF
MEMORIES...



...RIPPED AWAY
FROM YOU IN AN
INSTANT... TO LEARN
THAT EVERYTHING YOU
BELIEVED WAS A LIE?

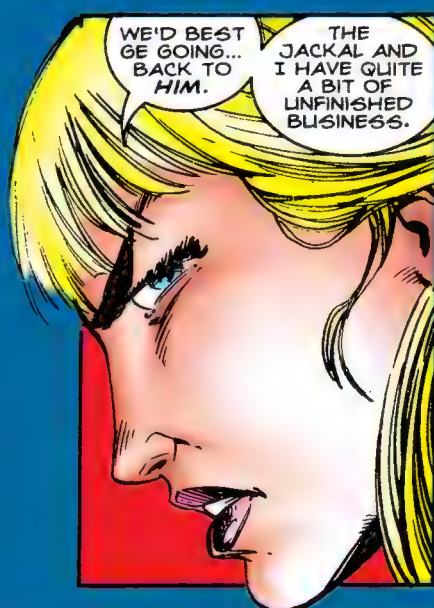


I DO KNOW.
I REALLY
DO.



MAYBE, BUT IT
DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER
ANYMORE...
DOES IT?

WE
HARDLY HAVE
CONTROL OF OUR
OWN LIVES
ANYMORE...
DO WE?



WE'D BEST
GE GOING...
BACK TO
HIM.

THE
JACKAL AND
I HAVE QUITE
A BIT OF
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS.



AND...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME, KAINE... YOU WON'T EVEN HURT ME.

YOU CAN'T.

NOT IF ALL YOU'VE TOLD ME IS TRUE. IF YOU ARE A CLONE OF PETER PARKER'S... THEN DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE AS GOOD AS HE IS.

BEING A CLONE DOESN'T MAKE YOU... OR MY HUSBAND... ANY LESS OF A MAN.

YOU'RE ALIVE! WHERE AND HOW YOU WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD JUST DOESN'T MATTER.



AND NOW I'M CARRYING HIS CHILD... I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM THROW AWAY THE LIFE WE'VE SHARED TOGETHER.



PETER IS A PERSON... AND SO ARE YOU! PROVE YOURSELF, KAINE! BY YOUR ACTIONS!

DON'T LET BEN BE KILLED! DON'T LET THE JACKAL KILL ANYMORE!

DO WHAT PETER WOULD DO! DO THE RIGHT THING.

YOU HAVE THE POWER...

PETER...MY PETER...HAS ALWAYS DONE THE RIGHT THING... HAS DEFINED HIMSELF BY HIS ACTIONS...NOT BY WHETHER HE WAS BORN OR CLONED.

HE HAS LIVED A VALUABLE LIFE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS I'VE KNOWN HIM.



NOW ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY!

THANK YOU, MARY JANE...



A SHORT
TIME LATER...

I was HERE.

HERE all along.

THE smokestack...the
factory in which my
supposedly dead body
was dumped.

THIS is the
Jackal's lair?

How much MORE
can he play with
my life?

WHOA!

Looks like I've
got company!

Too many of them
for me to even move...

...much less get
a good shot in.

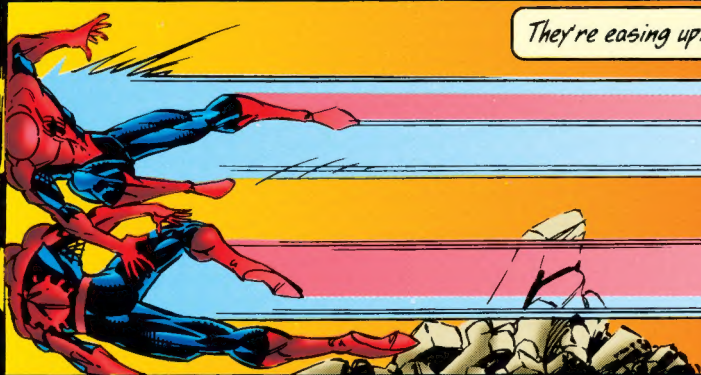
But there's no
way I'm going
to let the Jackal
do this to me
AGAIN!



I'm not going to let him rob me of my life AGAIN!

What...?

FWAM



They're easing up.

Something, or somebody's, got them distracted.



Distracted enough for me to do THIS!



YOU?
WHY ARE YOU...?



NO... Kaine...
STOP!



CONTINUED IN THE PAGES OF
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #227!